# Multi-Faith Chaplaincy
## Information

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Student SERVICES

*Advocacy & Support Services*

**Our students mean the world to us**

Concordia UNIVERSITY

**Real education for the real world**

www.concordia.ca

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

## At the Concordia Multi-Faith Chaplaincy

I find a place:

- *that fosters and creates community*
- *where I can grow in the areas of faith and spirituality, moral and ethical questions, human values and social issues.*
- *that respects my religious traditions.*
- *that makes explicit the presence and holiness of God in the University community*
- *that builds bridges*
- *that provides a personal caring presence*

What I'd like you to know as my instructor:
*I turn to you to manifest the values of respect and community that Concordia University promotes. Every time you are understanding and appreciative of the challenges I face, every time you speak up to make the classroom a safe, mindful and respectful place, I gain.*

*While I'm attending Concordia, I am not only growing in knowledge and skill, I am also growing spiritually. This growth is expressed through the religious tradition I belong to or through a spiritual search that is very important to me. Whatever my position is, I would like you to be sensitive to this spiritual dimension when I am in your class, as I should be of yours. One way we can do this is not to generalize from personal experience and to review some of the materials you use in your class to make sure that it is respectful of all religious traditions and spiritual paths. Another way is to be aware of the variety of programs that are conducted by and through the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy.*

Who are the Chaplains:

- Peter Côte
- Daryl Lynn Ross
- Rev. Ellie Hurnmel
- Rev. Raymond Lafontaine
- Michelina Bertone, SSA

Multi-faith Associates:

- Imam Salam Elmenyawi
- Manjit Singh
- Rabbi David Merling
- Rabbi Shlomo Mann
- Myokyo Judith MacLean

## Here are some of the services and programs offered through Multi-Faith Chaplaincy:

**The Peer Support Program**
Trained students run a drop-in center for listening, information and referral.

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard**
A weekly vegan meal is provided for students for a nominal one to two dollar donation. It provides a nutritional and community building service. In 2002, it distributed 2400 meals.

**The Student Emergency Food Fund**
This provides food to needy students. During 2001, $30 000 in food vouchers were distributed.

**Outreach Experience**
Student volunteers work with the elderly, the sick, youth, and the homeless.

**Building Bridges**
Students visit federal inmates in structured group visits every week during the semester.

**The Lunch Bunch**
Chaplains and students meet together informally in a community building lunch program.

**Reflections**
Weekly program for students wishing to discuss issues related to spirituality questions and practice spiritual exercises.

**Experiencing the Sacred in Your Everyday Life**
A weekly workshop involving visualization and meditation on Christian scriptures.

**Dreams on Our Journey to Wholeness**
A seven week workshop to learn or deepen skills to tend and understand one's dreams.

**Buddhist Meditation**
Weekly sessions of meditation instruction and sitting.

**Buddhist Retreats**

**Monastic Retreat**
Held at a Cistercian Monastery each year, students immerse themselves in monastic lifestyle for a brief period.

**Compassionate Action and Inter-faith Reflection**
This initiative involved students from different faith traditions in volunteer work and reflecting on their experiences.

**Towards a spirituality of non-violence**
Weekly meeting exploring and deepening their understanding of Jesus of Nazareth's message of non-violence in relation to oneself, others and the Earth.

**Habitat for Humanity**
This involved a group student who want to establish a Habitat for Humanity Chapter at Concordia.

**Video Divina**
Three evening programme, where students view and reflect on the themes films.

**Multi-faith Convocation Celebration**
This event involves the whole chaplaincy team and several multi-faith associates. It is an opportunity for students with their families to celebrate convocation in a spiritual way.

**Faith Community specific programs**
Meetings on Fridays with Muslim students, biweekly program for Sikh students, meeting with Jewish students, weekday and Sunday Catholic services

## I also am...

*... a single mom and a full time student. I live on a very tight budget. My daughter and I first went to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard to get a nutritious meal for a dollar and to go out once a week. There I found other single parents struggling with the same issues I was. In time, we set up a babysitting coop. This allowed me more time to study without weighing on my budget. I also found great support that helped me balance studying and raising my kid. It helped me to go on with my degree.*

*.. . from a small rural town in Manitoba. Montreal is so big and different from what I know. I really am excited about being here and doing what I want to do. But during my first semester, I felt lost and wondered if I was doing the right thing. I didn't want to call home and worry my family. I just needed to talk. So I went to the Peer Support Program. It was great! A student just like me listened and suggested a few things I could do to find my way and adjust. It made going on with studying a lot easier. Now I'm part of the Peer Support Program and I help others who feel just like I did when I started.*

*... on a very tight budget and depend on a cheque every month to make ends meet. During winter when the heating bills shoot up, or when it's time to buy books at the beginning of a semester, sometimes I have no money left for food. In those times I've gone to the chaplaincy to get food vouchers. Thanks to that, I could make it through and go on with studying.*

*. . . in my second year in psychology. I visit federal inmates through the "building bridges" program. I've learned a lot from the inmates. I also learn differently when I'm in class. I think I ask different questions in class because of this experience and I consider the answers I get and their meaning differently as well. This experience has opened my eyes. It made my studying so much richer.*

*... doing well in my studies. I am also manic-depressive. When I feel depressed, I go to see one of the chaplains. He always listens. It is a comforting and safe place for me to go. It helps me go on.*

*... a part-time student. I have been for the last eight years. If all goes well, I'll be done in a year and a half. I've now gotten used to being the "voice of experience" in the classroom. I'm 43, married, with two kids and a full time job. Studying is really important to me. I'm really grateful to the instructors who appreciate and understand the challenge of balancing all those parts of my life and value my experience.*

*. . . grieving. I've recently lost a parent. One of my instructors suggested that I get in touch with the chaplaincy to get support during this time. I'm glad he did. This support has been really important to me and helped me to keep going with my studies.*

*... just coming out. In one of my classes, the professor asked us to give a personal interpretation of a poem. I interpreted it from a gay perspective. I was really worried and nervous about how it would be considered in class. But the instructor was really open and respectful of a variety of perspectives, including mine. I really felt appreciated. It was really motivating.*

## Good resource:

http://www.diversityweb.org/digest/Sp99/religious.html

## Multi-Faith Chaplaincy


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